



SAN FRANCISCO
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TRAIL

Water Trail Strategic Planning





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Enhanced Water Trail Plan

- 28 Strategies for development and management
 - How are we doing?
 - What needs improvement?
 - What should we prioritize next?





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Strategy

1. Trailhead location

- Seek opportunities to increase use capacity at existing launches or create new access.

Purpose and Application

- Improve opportunities for people in human-powered boats and beachable sail craft to enjoy point-to-point trips on the Bay.

Notes

- Design Guidelines detail this approach. Most resources have been focused at existing sites and planning assistance provided to new access.



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Strategy

2. Linking Access Points

– Seek opportunities to link trailheads to each other and with access to other regional trails.

Purpose and Application

- Create useable links between sites for boaters by having sites ~3 miles apart
- Overnight accommodations every ~8 miles.

Notes

- Key aspect of WT. With 44 official sites, now substantially more opportunities for linked designated sites. Need more overnight.



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Strategy

3. Improvements Consistent with Site Characteristics

- Match the type and design of trail-related improvements to site conditions

Purpose and Application

- Diversity of the shoreline demands a flexible approach to meet boater needs compatible with site character

Notes

- Design Guidelines detail this approach



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Strategy

4. Consistency with Policies, Plans and Priorities

- Match the type and design of trail-related improvements to site conditions

Purpose and Application

- Diversity of the shoreline demands a flexible approach to meet boater needs compatible with site character

Notes

- Design Guidelines detail this approach



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Strategy

5. Design Guidelines

- Develop and update design guidelines for trail-oriented access improvements

Purpose and Application

- Design guidelines should be developed that facilitate consistently durable, accessible and functional facilities

Notes

- Design Guidelines complete. Can be updated, as needed.



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Strategy

6. Management Resources

– Match the facility improvements and use to the management resources available for maintenance and other needs

Purpose and Application

- Work with site owners to assess management resource constraints and recommend appropriate improvements and use levels

Notes

- Ongoing consultation with site owners / managers



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Strategy

7. Maintenance and Operations

- Develop a plan for trailhead facility maintenance and operation and identify who will be responsible

Purpose and Application

- Maintenance is important for protecting safety and facilities

Notes

- Ongoing consultation with site owners / managers. Not WT role to require management unless there are issues.



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Strategy

8. Parking

- Provide parking or drop-off zones as close as possible to launch points with time up to 4 hours and overnight where possible.

Purpose and Application

- Essential to boaters that are bringing their boat from elsewhere

Notes

- Design Guidelines outline parking needs for new or improved sites. Always considered during designation.



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Strategy

9. Restrooms

- Provide restrooms facilities to be universally accessible.

Purpose and Application

- Provide restrooms at a majority of trailheads to avoid water quality, wildlife, and human health.

Notes

- Design Guidelines outline restroom needs for new or improved sites. Always considered during designation.



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Strategy

10. Accessibility

- Develop and improve launch facilities to be universally accessible.

Purpose and Application

- Trailhead facilities should be made accessible to trail users with disabilities and users of all abilities.

Notes

- Accessibility Plan and Design Guidelines outline accessibility needs for new or improved sites. Always considered during designation.



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11. On-Site Equipment Storage

– Provide storage areas and facilities for boat and equipment storage.

Purpose and Application

- Helps to decrease economic barriers, facilitate trail use for urban users and reduce parking and transportation needs.

Notes

- Limited success with implementation. Additional grants for storage would help to achieve goals.



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Strategy

12. Non-Profit Boating Clubs and Concessions

- Promote and encourage non-profit boating clubs and/or equipment concessions.

Purpose and Application

- Helps to decrease economic barriers, facilitate trail use for urban users and reduce parking and transportation needs.

Notes

- Several great programs and concessions. Logistics and economics can be difficult to overcome for new operators.



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Strategy

13. Overnight Accommodations

- Develop new campsites and coordinate with motels, hotels, hostels, historic ships, etc.

Purpose and Application

- Overnight accommodations at dispersed sites (every ~8 miles) are critical to multi-day trips.

Notes

- One new campground (Candlestick). Additional opportunities (hostels, ships) need further investigation and coordination.



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14. Site Review

- Conduct periodic reviews of trailheads to identify site-specific issues

Purpose and Application

- Help identify and address site-specific WT problems or issues.

Notes

- Site reviews occur periodically and communication with WT staff is always available for site managers with WT related concerns.



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15. Habitat Restoration and Access

– Seek opportunities to coordinate trailhead development with habitat restoration

Purpose and Application

- Provide benefits for both habitat and access goals, when sited appropriately.

Notes

- WT regularly engages with agencies during restoration planning efforts and has incorporated WT into Restoration Authority funding guidelines.



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16. Monitoring Impacts

- Sponsor pilot projects to monitor trail impacts in different habitats

Purpose and Application

- Improve understanding of trail impacts and development of effective management and education outreach.

Notes

- BCDC performed extensive research during planning phase. Additional study has not yet been undertaken.



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Strategy

17. Outreach, Educational and Interpretive Signage

- Provide signage and other mediat at or near trailheads

Purpose and Application

- Signage is critical to WT education, outreach, and stewardship for safety and stewardship.

Notes

- Signs are being provided to all designated sites, consistent with AC and PMT guidance.



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Strategy

18. Outreach and Coordination

– Coordinate with guides, outfitters, business, agencies, and organizations to make them aware of WT

Purpose and Application

- Outreach to people already connected to a broad audience of trail users to foster interest.

Notes

- Outreach is ongoing and frequent. Additional outreach, particularly to team boating clubs, could be valuable.



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Strategy

19. Educational Media Guidebook

– Provide a comprehensive and up to date guide for using the WT

Purpose and Application

- Facilitate trip preparation and safety through multi-media including website, brochures, maps, and other media.

Notes

- New website and maps. Maps will need periodic updates. Additional materials, like guidebooks, can be developed as needed.



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Strategy

20. Guided Trips

- Provide guided trips or tours led by docents or rangers

Purpose and Application

- Guides are a great way for novice boaters and tourists to safely enjoy the trail and to control undesirable user behavior in sensitive areas.

Notes

- WT provides outreach for guided events hosted by partner agencies and organizations. Staff has helped to lead several tours.



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21. Boater-to-Boater Education

– Coordinate with agencies and boating organizations to facilitate and enhance boater-to-boater outreach

Purpose and Application

- This type of interaction is more likely to result in positive changes in behavior.

Notes

- WT provides outreach to boater groups like BASK and WSK that can be used to educate fellow-members and others.



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22. Trail Head Stewards

- Recruit and coordinate volunteers to be trailhead stewards to do maintenance and clean-ups, etc.

Purpose and Application

- Similar to “adopt” a site programs that have been used at other water trails.

Notes

- No progress has been made to date. This would be difficult to achieve with current resources.



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23. Training for Enforcement

– Where feasible and appropriate, provide training to local law enforcement on wildlife and environmental regulations.

Purpose and Application

- Could help law enforcement agencies to protect wildlife and habitat near trailheads.

Notes

- No progress has been made to date. This would be difficult to achieve with current resources.



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24. Limitations on Trailhead Use

- Establish limits, restrict boating activities, or close access at certain sites if significant impacts occur.

Purpose and Application

- One method to limit potential impacts to wildlife or safety when other management approaches have failed.

Notes

- No limitations or closures have occurred to date.



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Strategy

25. Comprehensive Education Program

– Create overall educational framework.

Purpose and Application

- Develop well-designed curriculum to ensure education is focused on most important issues.

Notes

- WT Education and Outreach Program was developed in 2011. Aspects have been implemented through the brochure, website, maps, and outreach presentations.



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26. Navigational Safety

- Develop and implement comprehensive safety education guidelines.

Purpose and Application

- Develop well-designed curriculum to encourage boaters safety and education across organizations.

Notes

- Safety information has been distributed through the brochure, website, maps, and outreach presentations.



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27. Boat Washing Facilities

– Provide boat washing facilities where feasible.

Purpose and Application

- Can help prevent the spread of invasive plants.

Notes

- Design Guidelines outline boat washing facility needs for new or improved sites. Always considered during designation.



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28. GHG Best Management Practices for Construction, Operation, and Program

- Implement best practices to minimize GHG emissions.

Purpose and Application

- Encourage awareness of climate change and actions to reduce carbon footprint.

Notes

- Additional boat storage facilities, non-profit boat clubs, and concessions would help to reduce transportation needs to sites.



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Plan Implementation

- Prioritization for 2019
 - Strategy:
 - 2. Linking Access Points
 - 11. On-Site Equipment Storage
 - 12. Non-Profit Boating Clubs and Equipment Concessions
 - 13. Overnight Accommodations
 - 26. Navigational Safety
 - Others?



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Discussion

